

Dursley Rural District  
Council.

---

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

---

1937.



# Dursley Rural District.

---

---

## ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

---

---

DR. H. F. W. ADAMS.

---

This report, my seventeenth, is similar to those for the past 12 years, i.e. an ordinary report.

It is also, I fear, my last for this district, as Dursley Rural District has now been removed from the East Gloucestershire United Districts Group.

During my period as Medical Officer of Health, there has been marked progress in Housing, Sewerage, and general improvements: and the Council, if I may say so, have proved themselves a very efficient health authority.

---

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	26,905
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	13,217
	and estimated	1936	...	...	...	13,880
	ditto	1937	...	...	...	14,400
Number of houses inhabited (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	37,88
		(end of 1936)	...	...	...	4,518
		(end of 1937)	...	...	...	4,670
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£54,485
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£212

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	117	130	247
Illegitimate	...	3	1	4
Birth Rate (R.G.) 16.7				

### STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	9	6	15
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 18.4				

DEATHS	...	...	107	106	213
Death Rate (R.G.) 14.7					

Number of Women dying in, or in				
consequence of childbirth...from Sepsis				...
				Nil
from other causes				1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000  
births:—

Legitimate, 48: Illegitimate, Nil; Total, 47.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	...	...	Nil

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

These remain the same as in previous years.

Although Dursley is a rural district, there are two fairly large towns in the area.

There are 8 large factories in Dursley itself, and approximately 6 in Cam, Kingswood and Cambridge.

---

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1937.

DISEASE.						Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	13	18
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	22	23
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	107	106



From the foregoing tables and statistics it will be seen that no unusual or excessive mortality occurred during 1937.

CANCER caused 31 deaths, a slight decrease, but still a very ominous figure.

INFLUENZA caused 12 deaths in 1937: this is somewhat in excess of the usual number occurring in an ordinary year.

There were 10 deaths from TUBERCULOSIS of all kinds.

DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM were again responsible for a large number of deaths: 76 out of 213: nearly one-third of the total deaths.

DEATH RATE :—14.7 is higher than usual, although it is not a bad figure, especially when we take into account the low figures which prevailed in the past few years. The figure for all England and Wales is 12.4. In the Dursley district the majority of deaths occurred over the age of 65 years.

BIRTH RATE :—16.7 is an excellent figure, being in excess of the good figure 15 for 1936, and the birth rate for England and Wales, 14.9 (It was caused by the births of 251 children).

INFANT MORTALITY :—47. Although this is above that for 1936, i.e. 38, it is a good figure. The rate for England and Wales is 58. It is caused by the deaths of 12 children under one year of age, all legitimate.

STILL BIRTHS :—15 occurred in 1937: 9 legitimate and 6 illegitimate.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

These remain unchanged. Infectious cases go to Over Hospital, Gloucester; smallpox cases (if any) to Chipping Sodbury.

The nursing in the district is carried out by nurses of the District Nursing Association, under the supervision of a full-time County Nurse. Much valuable work is done by them in the supervision of the School children, Midwifery and Tuberculosis visiting.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out in the laboratories at Gloucester and Bristol.

The Public Health Staff consists of a full-time Medical Officer of Health and a full-time Sanitary Inspector, also a Manager at the Sewage Works and an assistant.

A Child Welfare Centre in Wotton continues to do good work; there is also one in Dursley.

Maternal Mortality is under the administration of the County Council.

The Mortuary in contemplation is not yet completed.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases—from Over Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Messrs. R. A. Lister's Ambulance and the Bristol City and Marine Ambulance Service.



## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health.

Notification of Infectious Disease Act.

Public Health Acts, sec. 64.

Public Health Amendment Act.

Bye-laws are in force dealing with Slaughter-houses, and in the case of Dursley itself Building Bye-laws in respect to new streets and buildings are in force.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

There is still urgent need for a proper supply for Nymphsfield and North Nibley (Negotiations are now in progress).

It is anticipated that a supply of water from Millend, North Nibley, will be obtained for a water supply for North Nibley.

The extension of the main water supply to Nymphsfield is under consideration.

The extension of the existing water supply to Slimbridge at a cost of £8,000 is nearing completion.

Four water samples have been taken and submitted for analysis. The reports of these samples have been satisfactory.

Number of new connections with public supply.

Dursley	...	...	49
Cam	...	...	30
Slimbridge		...	40
Stinchcombe		...	12
Uley	...	...	155
Wotton-under-Edge			45
Total			<u>331</u>

The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

#### EXTENSION OF DURSLEY AREA WATER SUPPLY.

This supply has been continued through to Cambridge on to the Patch. Defective wells in this area are being dealt with. During the year under review 40 connections to the main supply were made.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

(a) Particulars of new schemes completed during the year—

The Dursley Sewer was extended to the Fortress for a distance of approximately sixty yards at a total cost of £25.

(b) Particulars of new works commenced during year—  
Nil.

(c) Particulars of contemplated works—

The extension of the main sewers to the Quarry Box Road, Cam Green, Tilsdown and Woodfields. Schemes have been approved for this purpose and it is hoped that this work will soon be put in hand.

(d) Particulars of Parishes where there is need for—

(1) A sewerage system :

Stinchcombe, North Nibley, Nymphsfield, Coaley,  
Slimbridge and Uley.

(2) Improvements in existing sewerage :

Cam.

(3) Improvements in sewage disposal :

Various improvements are required at the Dursley  
and Cam Sewage Outfall Works.

(e) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved  
privies constructed—

Uley 4, Cam 6, Kingswood 2.

(f) Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by  
W.C's.—

Kingswood 8, Uley 2.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

(a) In what Parishes have arrangements been made for  
the removal or disposal of house refuse ?

Dursley, Cam, North Nibley, Coaley, Wotton-U-Edge,  
Uley and Stinchcombe.

(b) What changes in the collection or disposal were  
made during 1937 ?

Nil.

## NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—
(b) Slaughter Houses ...	9	9	60
(c) Bakehouses ...	23	23	52
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops ...	200	160	183
(e) Canal Boats ...	—	—	—
(f) Workshops ...	44	38	54
(g) Outworkers' Residences	—	—	—

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary.

## SWIMMING POOLS.

There is one Swimming Pool (open air) in the district. An analysis of the water in this pool was found satisfactory.

## GENERAL.

(a) Number of complaints received ...	90
(b) Number of nuisances reported to District Council ...	28
(1) Total ...	118
(2) Swine ...	9
(c) Total number of nuisances abated ...	60
(d) Total number of preliminary notices served ...	26
(e) Total number of Statutory notices served ...	6
(f) Total number of summonses taken out ...	Nil
(g) Total number of convictions ...	Nil
(h) Number of houses disinfected ...	34 houses and 5 schools
(i) Methods of disinfection used...	Formaldehyde and SO <sub>2</sub> fumigation, spraying with Izal solution.

## SCHOOLS.

The Schools remain in good sanitary condition. With the exception of North Nibley and the two schools in Nymphsfield, water is laid on, or is in close vicinity.

## HOUSING.

## 1. NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total [including numbers given separately under (b)]	159
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(1) By the Local Authority ... ..	145
(2) By other bodies or persons ... ..	14
(c) Proposed under Housing Acts ... ..	56

## 2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts] ... ..	68
(b) Number of inspections made ... ..	75
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ... ..	30
(b) Number of inspections made ... ..	47
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	55

## 3. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... ..	17
---	----

## 4. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices —	
(a) By Owners ... ..	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	2
(6) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	2

## 5. HOUSING ACT 1936. OVERCROWDING.

(a) 1 Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	Nil
2 Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	Nil
3 Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	4
(c) 1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	2
2 Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	23
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	

26 cases of overcrowding were abated during 1936.  
This involved 27 families and 176 persons.



## CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

Many of the outlying Parishes are in need of a sewerage system. With the continued water extensions the need for proper sewers is felt more than ever.

It is hoped that during the current year (1938) the Cam sewer extensions and improvements to the Dursley and Cam Sewage Outfall Works will be carried out and so provide proper sewerage for parts of the district where building developments have been carried out in recent years.

The provision of a proper supply for Nymphsfield and North Nibley is again stressed.

## MEAT AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

Systematic food inspections have been carried out and small quantities of foodstuffs have been destroyed as unfit for human consumption. No cases of tubercular meat were found and distomatosis and hydated infections accounted for most of the meat destroyed.

## MILK SUPPLIES.

The milk supplies of the district continue good and many milk producers have availed themselves of the Accredited Milk Scheme and over 36 are producing Grade "A" milk.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifiable diseases recorded in 1937 was 40. Of these, 27 were scarlet fever. 19 were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths.

The incidence of this disease was as follows :—

Ages		Males	Females
under 10 years	...	9	6
10-15 years	...	2	5
15-25 years	...	2	2
25 and over	...	—	1

Four cases of diphtheria were notified: of these, three were carrier cases. The free immunisation of children of pre-school age against diphtheria is being carried out by local medical practitioners.

One case of puerperal pyrexia: one case of cerebro spinal meningitis: and four cases of pneumonia were also notified. However, 7 deaths were recorded from pneumonia. This shows some negligence in notifying the disease.

Three cases of erysipelas were also notified.

No case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in 1937.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.		Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	27	19	—
Diphtheria	...	...	4	4	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	4	—	7
Other diseases generally noti- fiable—Erysipelas	...	3	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis		1	—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally		—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Non-				Non-	
		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
Age	Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
20		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25		2	0	1	0	5	2	0	0
35		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
45		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	...	3	0	1	0	5	2	2	1

The notification of Tuberculosis generally throughout the district is good.

Each case, as notified, is visited by the Sanitary Inspector and by a Nurse. If deemed necessary it is visited by the Medical Officer of Health.





